DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 107 236 IR 001 976

AUTHOR Jacobsen, LaVonne
TITLE Map Resources in San Francisco.
PUB DATE 24 Oct 74
NOTE 13p.; Paper presented at the Western Association of Map Libraries (San Francisco, California, October 1974)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS Agencies; *Community Resources; *Community Surveys; *Directories; Government Libraries; *Information Sources; Library Collections; Library Surveys; *Maps; Publishing Industry; Purchasing; Research Libraries; Special Libraries
IDENTIFIERS California; Map Libraries; *San Francisco

ABSTRACT

A telephone survey and interviews were used to compile this directory of map resources in San Francisco, California. The directory listings are divided into collections and sources of maps. Within the two sections, the entries are subdivided by type of institution. Collection locales include academic and government libraries, corporations, and association. Sources include government agencies, associations, bookstores, and dealers. Each citation provides an address and telephone number and comments on special features of that collection or source such as subject coverage and availability of free materials. In a preface, some conclusions are drawn from the initial survey as to the state of map resources in San Francisco. (SL)

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MAP RESOURCES IN SAN FRANCISCO

by

LaVonne Jacobsen
Assistant Social Science, Business
and Ethnic Studies Librarian
San Francisco State University Library

The search for San Francisco's map resources proved to be enlightening and frustrating simultaneously. The number of significantly large collections or major sources within the city limits is limited, but the attempt at a comprehensive survey has revealed a sizeable number of map users, producers and dealers on a small scale. While this directory will be of the most immediate use to those in the San Francisco Bay area, perhaps the variety and scope revealed by this survey will encourage other map librarians to investigate their neighboring resources, too.

Beyond the directory itself, the advantages of conducting this survey lie in the personal contacts with other librarians and with map producers. The San Francisco State University map collection has further benefited from the addition of numerous free maps, the library has received free informational material for the pamphlet files and I have more up-to-date acquisitions information. The contacts also produced some requests for advice on the handling of maps and, hopefully, occasionally stimulated a new awareness of maps as information resources. An intangible bonus has been the discovery that the collection at San Francisco State is one of the few significant collections within the city, modest though we feel it to be.

The survey also underlines some general patterns concerning map use and collection that have often been noted before. Maps are not collected systematically in most cases, nor are they being used as effectively as they might be. Most of the schools and colleges contacted, for example, have only those maps which arrive automatically, such as with the National Geographic magazine or government documents, or which are gifts from travelers. This probably reflects the limited use of maps as teaching aids or in assignments in these schools and perhaps that the large classroom maps are tucked away in departmental closets. The lack of awareness of maps as resources is not limited to the schools, of course. Many of the special associations devoted to particular countries or special subjects suited to maps made no use of maps at all, or were rather limited in using and organizing them.

Another recurrent pattern is that maps are nearly always organized simply, by area or area and subject, and seldom have card files. Given the extent of most collections, this type of arrangement works quite well and does not require a great deal of maintenance or specialized knowledge.

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Thematic maps are much less in evidence than other varieties. A questioning of many special subject collections, such as in medicine, religion or horticulture, showed occasional use of thematic atlases and very little use or acquisition of thematic maps. One would expect to find epidemiological maps or vegetation maps, for example, but there were no affirmative responses to those questions. This may be the result of the unavailability (or inaccessibility) of these maps and the lack of awareness of their existence and uses.

The negative responses from some possibilities are as interesting as the positive ones. Some of the government agencies that would be expected to have maps apparently did not, such as the Federal Railroad Administration and the California Coastal Zone Conservation Commission. It is not clear whether this signifies limited exploitation of maps, reflects the purely administrative nature of some of these offices, or means that the interview did not reach the right person or ask the right questions.

The survey was conducted initially by telephone. When the holdings warranted and time was available, the telephone interviews were followed by personal contacts. I was able to do so in twenty-seven instances. The initial list of contacts began with a search of directories of special libraries in the area and suggestions from colleagues. The search was then greatly extended through the use of the telephone book. The yellow pages are fruitful under the headings SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, MAPS and BOOKSTORES and the white pages contain the listings of government agencies. Once in contact with many of these places, referrals from them became another source of possibilities. The total of approximately 140 leads eventually resulted in 64 directory entries. There are, no doubt, other potential sources that could be further located. I did not, for example, contact all the corporations that may use or produce maps in their work, but reached only those listed in the directories of special libraries.

The interviews for the map collections were intended to draw out information concerning the size, arrangement, special strengths and unique features, types of materials, staffing and accessibility to the public. In many cases, no one would venture even an estimate of the size of their collection. In general, too, staffing was seldom formalized; in fact, there was usually no one specifically assigned to handling and collecting maps. Information gathered from the map stores and publishers naturally centered around the variety of materials and for what geographical areas they were available.

Mention must be made of the conspicuous absence of some resources formerly in San Francisco. The U.S. Geological Survey regional facility is now in Menlo Park, leaving only a sales office within the city. The collection of Army Map Services (Defense Mapping Agency) maps at the Presidio has been completely phased out. What was not declared surplus has been moved to Denver, Colorado. The Sanborn Corporation no longer maintains an office in San Francisco, but has an answering service to accept inquiries.

The directory listings are divided into collections and sources of maps. Within these two sections, the entries are subdivided by types of institutions such as academic or governmental. Collections are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

COLLECTIONS- GOVERNMENTAL

CALIFORNIA

Division of Mines and Geology Library
Ferry Building, Foot of Market Street
557-0308

"The library is one of the finest of its kind,...pertaining to all phases of mining and the earth sciences" (library brochure). The map collection consists of U.S.G.S. topographic quadrangles for California, Oregon, Arizona and Nevada, the geologic atlases for California, New Mexico and Oklahoma, county geological maps and an assortment of other maps of regions such as Yellowstone or the Comstock Lode. The arrangement is by area and subject. The adjoining museum, which has large displays of specimens and gold-mining operations, includes a few large, three-dimensional relief maps. Non-circulating.

Sutro Library
California State Library Branch
2130 Fulton Street
557-0374

Devoted to genealogical research and housing Adolph Sutro's collection of incunabula, manuscripts, and pre-twentieth century books. No map collection per se. Reference atlases, Bartholomew's half-inch maps of Great Britain and county map books in support of genealogical research. Some of these maps are accessible through the card catalog. Plastic relief maps on display. The closed special collections have an assortment of early topographic quadrangles arranged by states, laying on open shelving. The closed collection reflects Sutro's broad ranging interests from Egyptology and pacific discovery to botany. There are numerous maps contained within this book collection, possibly some of great value, but they are only rarely noted in the catalog.

SAN FRANCISCO

Asian Art Museum Library
Golden Gate Park
558-2993

Basic atlas collection for reference. Do not collect early Oriental maps, but would like to. Open by appointment.

De Young Museum
Golden Gate Park
558-2887

The Museum has on display a celestial globe and a terrestrial globe, both by Jodocus Hondus (Joos de Hondt) and dated about 1600. Although the staff felt there may be some maps in the Museum's holdings, they could not be sure. There are none on display.

San Francisco Public Library
Main Library
Civic Center
558-3191

Atlases and road maps in the History Department. U.S.G.S. quadrangles for the whole United States in the Science and Documents Department. Some California and local materials in Special Collections including an old set of Sanborn atlases.

J. D. Randall Jr. Museum
199 Museum Way
863-1399

Activities and displays for young people. Collection of U.S.G.S. quadrangles for California.

UNITED STATES

Environmental Protection Agency Library
100 California Street
556-1840

U.S.G.S. quadrangles for this region: California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii. No special thematic maps except as arrive with documents.

COLLECTIONS - CORPORATE

Manalytics, Inc. Library
625 Third Street
788-4143 ext. 41

Transportation library. No real collection of maps or planned acquisitions. Some Coast and Geodetic Survey charts. Geographical arrangement. Use by special arrangement.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co.
77 Beale Street
781-4211

Small collection, primarily Federal Power Commission maps and general reference maps. No company-produced maps.

Pacific Telephone Company Library
140 New Montgomery Street
542-2896

Lending library for employees: General reference collection of atlases and National Geographic maps. No special subject maps. Pioneer Memorial Library: Special library on telephone communications; no maps.

Standard Oil Corporation Library
225 Bush Street
894-3370

Geo-science section of the Library has geological atlases and sheet maps. Some topographic quadrangles and bathymetric charts. Area/subject arrangement. Filed in map case or in vertical files. Some folded series are classified and shelved in the book collection.

Wells Fargo Bank History Room
420 Montgomery
396-2648

Historical maps such as staging routes; both originals and reproductions.

World Trade Center Library
One Embarcadero Center
421-7777

Current materials on all phases of international business. Maps are included in the collection, but only as they come incidentally with publications and documents.

COLLECTIONS - ASSOCIATIONS

American Russian Institute
90 McAllister
861-3813

The Institute's small library does include maps of the Soviet Union, primarily recent publications rather than historical ones.

Asia Foundation Library
550 Kearny
982-4640

Reference maps for general purposes. Staff use only.

California Academy of Sciences Library
Golden Gate Park
221-5100

U.S.G.S. topographic quadrangles for California and some for other western states. No special thematic maps but some thematic atlases. The lobby of the Academy of Sciences displays the, "largest, most complete geo-physical-oceanographic relief globe" produced by Rand McNally. 75" model with a vertical exaggeration of 40x. Gift of the Bank of America.

California Historical Society Library
2099 Pacific Avenue
567-1848

Historical map collection fills 45 map case drawers (no other size estimate) arranged by area and date, beginning about 1800. Mainly original maps of varied types such as early quadrangles, tourist maps and real estate flyers. Emphasis on California, although other western areas are included. The collection also contains reproductions of the Henry Morgan collection of old world maps at Pomona and of early colonial maps from the Library of Congress. A few additional maps are entered in the card catalog. These are folded in pamphlet bindings, classified, and shelved in the closed book stacks.

International Longshoreman's and Warehouseman's Union Library
1188 Franklin
775-0533

Charts of American ports, possibly some international ports. No other maps; atlases for general reference purposes. Non-circulating.

Irish Center of San Francisco
2123 Market Street
621-2200

Library is in the process of being established. Collection does include maps and they are trying to get more. Non-circulating.

Jewish Community Library
639 14th Avenue
751-6984

Small collection of maps and atlases included. Subjects concern Israel, Bible lands, Jewish migrations and settlements, Jews in America to the Revolutionary War.

Mechanics Institute Library
57 Post Street
421-1750

Private subscription library. U.S.G.S. quadrangles for California. Sheets are folded to fit into binders about 2' by 3' and four inches thick. Access by index map and alphabetical list of sheet names. Atlases and wall maps. 1853 map of San Francisco approximately 5' square displayed on one wall.

Pacific Union Club Library
1000 California Street
775-1234

Members only. Maps are in the midst of being inventoried and organized. Estimated to be general purpose maps given to the Library by members.

San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind
Braille Library
745 Buchanan Street
621-2717

Large non-commercial relief map of San Francisco showing major streets; used in teaching the blind about the city and the bus routes. They do not have the commercial plastic relief maps.

San Francisco Maritime Museum
Foot of Polk Street
776-1175

Primary strength of this collection lies in its hydrographic charts of San Francisco Bay from the earliest to the present day. The collection includes original charts and maps as well as reproductions filmed from U.C. Berkeley's collection. The library staff is preparing to re-organize them and will have a more complete idea of their holdings at that time. Research space is currently limited so they cannot really encourage new users at this point. The Museum displays many of the early charts from the collection. Reproductions are available for sale.

Sierra Club Library
220 Bush Street
981-8634

Collection consists mainly of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management maps. Maps are scattered throughout the office where they are in use and collected in a few unsorted drawers.

Society of California Pioneers Library
456 McAllister
861-5278

Californiana collection. Includes some early historical maps. Members only except by special arrangement.

Wine Institute Library
717 Market Street
986-0878

Members and employees. Some maps and atlases showing distribution of growing areas.

World Affairs Council Library
406 Sutter
982-2541

Very few atlases and maps for general reference purposes.

COLLECTIONS - ACADEMIC

The academic libraries listed below had similar small reference collections of maps. Generally, the collections consist of National Geographic maps, road maps, and other maps as arrive accidentally. No directed acquisitions noted. Arranged by area, for the most part. Wall maps. Atlases. Maps are housed in the Reference rooms in map cases, file cabinets or cardboard boxes.

City College of San Francisco
50 Phelan Avenue
587-7272 ext. 402

Lone Mountain College
Lone Mountain Terrace
752-7000

Simpson College (Religious)
801 Silver Avenue
334-7400 ext. 17

University of San Francisco
Golden Gate Avenue and Parker Avenue
666-6686

San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue

Social Science, Business and Ethnic Studies Library
469-1556

Army Map Service depository since 1960. Arranged by AMS numbers and accessed by printed index maps. The general collection of maps is arranged by Library of Congress classification system. Local emphasis, with attempts to expand thematic, urban and historical holdings. Area/subject catalog of the LC maps and the atlas collection. Selected U.S.G.S. quadrangles, but depository collection is in the Geography Department. Road maps and wall maps. The LC maps and road maps circulate. Collection totals about 7000 sheets. Science and Technology library has some geological maps.

Geography Department
469-1145

U.S.G.S. depository for the Far Western states, scattered holdings for other states. Wall maps and classroom sets for some maps. Emphasis on California and local area, although includes a special China collection and lunar charts. Arranged by area. Materials usually circulate to students. Staffed by graduate students.

Geology Department
469-1755

Part of the Geology stockroom includes topographic quadrangles checked out to go into the field and an assortment of geological maps. Staffed by graduate students.

DeBellis Collection of Italian Literature and Music
Library, Sixth floor
469-1649

Non-circulating collection of books, manuscripts and art objects given to the California State University and Colleges System and housed at San Francisco State University. The rare books section includes atlases and portfolios of 16th and 17th century maps of Italy or by Italian cartographers such as Coronelli. The collection also has some reprints such as of Theatrum Orbis Terrarum.

SOURCES - GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

CALIFORNIA

No central distribution agency or office located in San Francisco. Other than the library collections noted above, only the Department of Transportation revealed a collection of maps for internal use, the Automobile Club road maps. Unfortunately, several agencies which might have been pertinent do not have San Francisco offices, such as Fish and Game or Parks and Recreation. Free maps were available from the Department of Transportation and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

GREAT BRITAIN

British Consulate-General Library
120 Montgomery Street
981-3030

Tourist maps are available free to individuals making inquiries about travel to London and Great Britain.

SAN FRANCISCO

Purchasing Department
Room 270
City Hall

All maps sold by city agencies are available through this office. Maps in stock at the time of the survey were large street maps in two sizes and 8½" by 11" maps of each city block. Some city agencies use the complete set of block maps, but none are available for public use.

Free maps available from:

Recreation and Parks Department	
Fell and Stanyan	558-3706
Municipal Railway	
949 Presidio Avenue	673-6864
Port of San Francisco	
Ferry Building	391-8000
School District Offices	
135 Van Ness Avenue	863-4680

UNITED STATES

U.S. Forest Service Information Office
630 Sansome Street
556-0122

Free brochures and some free maps of the national forests. Selected other maps for sale, but this is not actually a sales office. One copy of any map is free to libraries when requested on letterhead stationery.

U.S. Forest Service
Surveys, Maps Production and Aerial Photos
630 Sansome Street
556-5299

Aerial photos of national forest in California. Available in black and white or color with planimetric spot index maps or photo mosaic indices. Areas other than the national forests are available in Menlo Park at the U.S.G.S. office.

U.S. Geological Survey Sales Office
555 Battery Street
556-5627

In addition to the Geological survey topographic quadrangles and geological maps, the Sales office stocks nautical charts for the immediate area, other National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration publications and materials from EROS (Earth Resources Observation Systems) Program. Free pamphlet materials and catalogs are also available. While, in some ways, the office could be considered a reference facility, the primary regional facility is now in Menlo Park.

U.S. Government Bookstore
450 Golden Gate Avenue
556-6657

The Bookstore stocks only the map of Indian lands of the U.S. and the Central Intelligence Agency reference maps of foreign countries. There were no census maps or national park maps in stock. Other maps available from the Government Printing Office may, of course, be ordered through the Bookstore.

U.S. National Park Service
450 Golden Gate Avenue
556-4122

Basically an information office, but sells maps of some national parks in California.

Of the many other agencies contacted that might be expected to produce or use maps, none revealed collections. Those which occasionally publish maps referred me to the Bookstore or the Government Printing Office.

SOURCES - DEALERS AND BOOKSTORES

Advanced Technical Graphics
333 Kearny
397-5279

Produces maps among other graphic materials to customer specifications.

Astrographics, Inc.
2887 Washington
563-7077

Publishes the Celestial Wall Map, a star chart hand-drawn and plotted from a computer printout produced by the Bright Star Sifting Computer at U.C. Berkeley. Descriptive leaflet available.

George E. Butler Co., Chronometer and Watchmakers
160 Second Street
495-5255
Agents for U.S. and British nautical and aeronautical charts.

Hollman Publishing Company
World Trade Center
788-8636
Publishers of a bird's eye view of San Francisco drawn from aerial photos. Available November 1974.

North American Maps
P. O. Box 5850
333-3490
Publishes street and vicinity maps of San Francisco Bay Area predominantly. Free brochure.

Rand McNally Bookstore
206 Sansome Street
362-4834
In addition to stocking the Company's own maps, atlases, books and globes, the store carries Army Map Service maps, and U.S.G.S. quadrangles, aeronautical charts, maps by other publishers, guidebooks, star charts and geographical puzzles. Catalogs available for Rand McNally publications.

Thomas Bros. - The Map Store
550 Jackson
981-7520
Stocks Thomas Bros. maps, basically, but also sells local and international guide maps from other publishers. Stock includes posters, reproductions of antique maps, plastic relief maps, star charts and more. Catalog available.

Antiquarian bookstores with selections of old maps:

Holmes Book Co.
22 Third Street (at Market)
362-3283

John Howell Books
434 Post Street
781-7795

Jeremy Norman and Co.
442 Post Street
781-6402

John Scopazzi
278 Post Street, Suite 305
362-5708

SOURCES - ASSOCIATIONS

California State Automobile Association
150 Van Ness Avenue
565-2711

Publishes road maps and travel guidebooks. Free to members. No longer able to sell maps to non-members because of shortages and therefore also reducing or eliminating gifts to libraries.

Redwood Empire Association
476 Post Street
421-6554

Travel promotion office. Free maps available in person.

San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
456 California Street
392-4511

Multiple free copies of street map of San Francisco showing points of interest available to anyone who picks them up.